

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 704 - HB 1103

March 27, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates “Operation Comeback Act”. Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop and administer a tutoring program to provide access to tutoring services to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade three (K-3). Requires DOE to work with local education agencies (LEA), charter school governing bodies, and educator preparation program providers to promote, advertise, and publicize the tutoring program to individuals who may be interested in providing tutoring services through the program.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$29,484,000/FY21-22 and
Subsequent Years**

**Increase Local Expenditures –
Exceeds \$70,200/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years/Permissive**

Assumptions:

- There are approximately 312,000 students in grades K-3.
- Based on the most recent 3rd grade Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) data, it is estimated that 60 percent of students in grades K-3, or 187,200 students, are below proficient.
- It is estimated that 50 percent of below proficient students, or 93,600 students, will participate in tutoring services.
- Community buildings and churches will be used as tutoring centers to provide in-person instruction to small groups.
- The legislation requires a maximum of 40 students per tutoring center, which will require 2,340 tutoring centers (93,600 / 40); however, it is assumed that any cost related to using these centers is not significant.
- The legislation requires a maximum tutor to student ratio of one tutor for every ten students. Therefore, 9,360 (93,600 / 10) tutors will need to be hired to serve students in accordance with the legislation.
- The legislation requires that each student receive five sessions of tutoring every two weeks and that each tutoring session last one hour.

- The typical school year is 36 weeks and it is assumed that each participating student (93,600) would receive 90 sessions per school year (36 weeks / 2 x 5 sessions every two weeks).
- The tutors required by this bill are required to be certified educators. The department assumes a cost of \$35 per tutor per session for a certified educator.
- This legislation requires a tutor to student ratio of at least 1:10, therefore the estimates are considered minimums required to implement the tutoring program.
- The total cost for 9,360 tutors providing 90 group sessions per year at a cost of \$35 per session will result in a recurring increase in state expenditures estimated to exceed \$29,484,000 (9,360 x 90 sessions x \$35).
- If an LEA decides to provide transportation services for their students there would be permissive local cost. It is assumed that the cost of transportation would be \$3.00 per student per trip.
- It estimated that at least 25 percent or 23,400 students (93,600 x 25%) will require transportation services.
- The total permissive increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$70,200 (23,400 x \$3.00) in FY21-22 and subsequent years.
- DOE will be required to develop a program to provide initial training and certification for approved tutors and provide ongoing professional development; it is assumed that DOE can comply with the requirements of the legislation within existing resources such that any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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